



12055 Government Center Parkway ❖ Suite 927

Fairfax, Virginia 22035-1118 ❖ 703-324-8701

JUDY PEDERSEN
E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov
PRESS INQUIRIES: 703-324-8662
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thoesen Announces Departure From Park Authority Board

Herndon Mayor Richard C. Thoesen, an active member of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, announced his resignation in a letter to Park Authority Board (PAB) Chairman Winnie Shapiro earlier this month. Thoesen's resignation becomes effective January 28, 2003.

Thoesen was appointed by Supervisor Stu Mendelsohn to the Park Authority Board in January 2000. He served as the Dranesville District representative. Thoesen is leaving the Board in order to make sufficient time available for his duties as town mayor. After his appointment as mayor, Thoesen remained on the PAB to help ensure passage of the 2002 Park Bond and to participate in the selection of a new director. Both tasks were completed in the last few months.

During Thoesen's three years of service, many projects in the Dranesville District were accomplished. Earlier this month, the Chandon Off Leash Dog Area in Herndon opened, bringing to a close the two year efforts of community members, the Herndon Town Council and the Park Authority. Thoesen was also instrumental in the acquisition and planning of CLEMYJONTRI Park in McLean, which will provide a unique playground setting for disabled children. The 18.5 acre parcel, off Georgetown Pike, was donated to the Park Authority.

Other projects which have prospered under Thoesen's attentions include the renovation of McLean Central Park, ballfield reconstruction at Hutchinson School Site, ballfield renovation and expansion at Great Falls Nike and master planning plus development of the equestrian facility at Turner Farm.

Thoesen wrote, " Over the past three years I have experienced an energetic and fulfilling team environment that has been very beneficial to the citizens we serve." He added, "...I am expressing my sincere appreciation to the FCPA staff for their dedication, able assistance over the years and their professional knowledge, skills and abilities so keenly demonstrated time after time." A replacement member of the Board has been appointed by Supervisor Mendelsohn and will be announced shortly.

For more information, please contact Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer, at 703-324-8662.

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